



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

MICHAEL M. CLINE
State Coordinator

JANET L. CLEMENTS
Deputy Coordinator

JAMES W. KECK
Deputy Coordinator

10501 Trade Court
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713
(804) 897-6500
(TDD) 674-2417
FAX (804) 897-6506

Virginia Emergency Operations Center

Hazardous Materials Incident

Situation Report #1

As of 1300 hours, 15 March 2005

SITUATION:

Arlington County

- Arlington County Fire Department and Hazmat Units responded to Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility (RDF) on 14 March reference detection alarm alert for presence of anthrax bacteria. The RDF was evacuated while tests were conducted.
- Lab samples were collected and sent to CBI Commercial Lab, Department of Defense Contractor, in Richmond, VA and they reported one positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test reading at 0430 hours on 15 March 2005. (PCR tests the DNA to indicate a presence, it does not indicate if the sample is active or alive).
- Lab samples were forwarded to Fort Detrich, MD for additional testing.
- Pentagon medical officials placed approximately 263 personnel on 3 day Cipro regimen.
- Arlington County Emergency Operations Center operational as of 1823 hours, 14 March.

Fairfax County

- Fairfax County Fire and Rescue along with Hazmat Units reported a response to a Department of Defense Skyline mail facility located at 5111 Leesburg Pike, Baileys Crossroads area, Fairfax, VA on 14 March reference a mail handler alarm on mail coming from the Pentagon.
- Mailroom personnel (approximately 45) were decontaminated and the other personnel (approximately 2000) were sheltered in place until testing was completed. Personnel were questioned and released at approximately 2100 hours, 14 March.
- Unified Command was established with representatives from local and federal officials to include Department of Defense, FBI and Health Departments. Fairfax County Health Department is lead local agency.
- Filter in mail alerting sensor has not yet been recovered and remains on site. FBI Hazardous Materials Response Unit has been requested to assist recovering sensor.

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

CONTIGUOUS STATES ACTIVITIES:

Washington, DC

- Approximately 150 Postal workers at upstream postal facility located at V Street receiving 3 day Cipro regimen through DC Health Department.

ONGOING STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

Arlington County

- Arlington County Emergency Operations Center operational with minimal staffing and continues to monitor situation awaiting confirmatory test results.

Fairfax County

- Fairfax County continues to monitor situation and is considering activating Emergency Operations Center.
- Fairfax County conducted 1130 press conference at Skyline Facility.
- Law enforcement investigation ongoing.

Virginia Department of Health

- Activating VDH Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) at 1300 hours exchanging Liaison Officer with VDEM.
- Continue sharing information with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies.
- Moving antibiotics to Fairfax with assistance from VA State Police. Developing evolving Public Information products.
- Participating on multiple conference calls.
- Continue to monitor Pentagon and Skyline incidents awaiting confirmatory test results.

Virginia State Police

- Assist VDH with movement of antibiotics

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- Consideration is being given to establishing a Joint Information Center (JIC) at Fairfax County alternate Emergency Operations Center.
- VDEM Regional Hazmat Officer and Local Support Services Regional Coordinator assisting localities as requested.
- Continue to monitor situation awaiting confirmatory test results.
- Participating on multiple conference calls.

PROJECTED ACTIONS:

- Assist localities as needed
- Planning for potential dispensing of prophylaxis, if required.
- Continue to coordinate public information/press releases
- Continue to monitor situation and participate in conference calls
- The next Situation Report will be issued on 15 March 2005 at 1900 hours, unless there is a significant change.

Prepared by: Mike Gray
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ **Harry Colestock, Operations Director**